

Steers

1736 April 30 (Friday). It is an unusually Cold and Melancholly Season. Grass very backward and Hay very short. I hear it has gone hard with many Cattle in the Towns above us. Through Divine Smiles I have Hay, Some Sufficiency, And have entertained Mr. Ebenezer Locks Cow most of the winter, and Brother Hicks's 2 Steers the Spring.

1740 October 30 (Thursday). Mr. Tainter, Mr. Harrington, Mr. Aaron Forbush and Warrin came to take down my wild steer. They perswaded me rather to fell [sell?] him and buy my Beef notwithstanding the keeping I had bestow'd and I consented and Sold him to Mr. Harrington for £13. Mr. Hezekiah Ward of Sturbridge here. We Shut up a Third Swine for Pork.

1740 October 31 (Friday). I bought a pair of Steer one coming 4 which I had for 11£ 5 Shillings, and another coming 5 which was valued at 12£ 10, for which I was to give him a Young Cow with Calf, valued at 8£ 10, and a Red Steer coming 4 valued at 7£15, and he to give me in money 3£ 15.

1740 November 12 (Wednesday). N.B. on the 12th Mr. Eliezer Rice here and took away my young brindled Cow, with Calf, and a young Steer coming 4, according to bargain for his Cattle. I am indebted to him 7.10.0 overplus.

1747 March 10 (Tuesday). Neighbour Edwards Whipple carry'd his Loading to Boston on my Mare he taking with him my Calf to market it for me, and 70£ Old Tenor to Brother Samuel Parkman. N.B. I was at Neighbour Eliezer Rice's this morning and improv'd him to take a Time to go and buy me a pair of Steers of Mr. Timothy Warrin.

1747 March 23 (Monday). Din'd at Mr. Martyns; it being misty and rainy, but p.m. he and I rode to Mr. William Goddards and I bought a pair of Steers of him nigh 4 years old for 34£ old Tenor.

1747 March 25 (Wednesday). Sent Ebenezer to Mr. Goddards for the Steers I lately bought of him and paid him 15£ old Tenor.

1747 March 27 (Friday). Ebenezer trys, with Billey riding the Mare, and himself putting up the New Steers to Split Indian Hills.

1747 April 16 (Thursday). At home whilst I was at Lancaster, a large promising Steer coming 2 years old, for which I had lately got a mate of Mr. David Maynard, was drown'd at a meadow where my Young Cattle went to feed.

1747 September 4 (Friday). N.B. my Young Cattle are brought Home from Sutton, except a Young Steer.

1747 September 25 (Friday). Ebenezer went to Sutton and brought home the Young Cow which Brother Hicks wanted to have for his Cedar Swamp, and he brought also a young Steer which had been left out of the Drove.

1747 December 7 (Monday). Captain Maynard here at Eve whilst I sold Mr. Jonah Warrin (of whom, and his son Elijah, I had this last Fall 178 £ of Beef at 12 d. per pound) Two Steers, one coming 3, the other coming 2 for 21£ old Tenor. Twas Captain Maynards Judgment that they were worth so much, and offer'd to give it for 'em if he hadn't 'em. N.B. I offer'd the Captain pay for keeping the Horses I sent to him at Thanksgiving Time, but he would not take it.

1749 September 26 (Tuesday). Daniel Hastings kill'd a Steer for me. He left us and return'd to Watertown.

1749 November 8 (Wednesday). At Eve Lieutenant Tainter and his son Benjamin brought in Mary Woodwell the Captive return'd from Canada. They left her and she lodg'd here, and Lieutenant brought home my steer which had been missing from Thurstons at Reads Farm, having found him at Brookfield.

1750 September 15 (Saturday). Mr. Frost again p.m. Lieutenant Tainter brought home from the woods, a Steer which he had kept all winter, and driven up to Sommers for Summering; and this as well as the keeping of Several Cattle for me last Winter was I suppose Gratis.

1750 November 19 (Monday). We kill'd a Steer of 5 past-21 score. Mr. Jonathan Rogers assisted.

1751 June 21 (Friday). Part of the forenoon assisted Ebenezer in mending Fence in the furthest Pasture -- a large Steer being very unruly.

1751 November 11 (Monday). In the Morning it rain'd. But so heavy did the Affair of Sudbury lie upon us that Mr. Martyn and I determin'd to ride to Southborough and Conferr with Mr. Stone who was another sent to: we stop'd at my other House where were Messrs. Noah How and Daniel Garfield junior who at this Time bought my Fat Steer -- agreed to give 13 pence old Tenor for him Hide Beef and Tallow.

1752 March 2 (Monday). N.B. Reckon'd with Messrs. How and Daniel Garfield, who bought a steer of me last fall.

1753 January 3 (Wednesday). N.B. 4 more Cattle brought from my other place to keep at this new Barn. Weather very Cold. Simon Tainter tertius and his Brother (2 Boys) brought a Load of Walnut Wood with their Steers and little Sled.

1754 November 8 (Friday). Sent by Lieutenant Tainter of Boston. N.B. He kill'd one of my steers, or rather one of his which he changes for one of mine that was a Rogue. He kill'd it at

his House and brought me a Side of the Meat, the Hide, Tallow and Offal, and borrows half of the Meat to spend in his own Family. N.B. The Quarters he brought here were 90 and 86.

1754 November 25 (Monday). My Stray'd Steer brought home by Ebenezer.

1755 August 21 (Thursday). My oldest Steers come home.

1755 October 3 (Friday). Mr. Edwards Whipple (with the Assistance of my Son William and Steers) brought a Load of Boards and Eight Braces.

1755 November 13 (Thursday). Billy with Mare and Steers work'd for Mr. Nurse all Day.

1755 November 14 (Friday). Rose Early and visited Jonathan Bond. Brought home Mrs. Bonds Oxen and Billy and Nathan (Kenny) plough with them and my Steers at the Cook Field.

1756 January 28 (Wednesday). The Weather in the Morning was doubtful. My Son William Sat out with a Team made up of my Steers with my sons Cart, and Neighbour Barnabas Newtons oxen, to go to Sutton for Corn from Mr. Trasks. Mr. Jonathan *Kenny* induces him and is very fair in promising me to go with him and assist him and See him well back as far as Mr. *Jennisons* -- but when Mr. *Kenny* had set out it began to rain -- for which reason I Sent word that if it rained they Should not proceed, yet they proceeded notwithstanding the Rain.

1756 April 15 (Thursday). Mr. Daniel Forb.'s Son Daniel with 4 Oxen and Asher Newton with 4 Oxen likewise come to cross my field behind the Meeting House. Through a Mistake another set of Oxen did not come. We got Mr. Zebulun *Rice's*. His son Adam came and drove: and put in my own steers. My son Thomas assisted -- and with these was accomplished a good piece of work.

1756 April 17 (Saturday). This morning my sons found the young Steer dead in Mr. D. Hardys Meadow; both mired and drown'd. The storm very vehement.

1756 May 10 (Monday). My Son Ebenezer came over with his Steers and Mare, which joined to my own steers and Mare, he used to Harrow my Meeting House Field.

1756 May 12 (Wednesday). Warm Air; fine Weather for Planting -- D.G. Billy, with Neighbour Barney Newtons Oxen, and Abners Cart goes with our steers to attempt a Load of Rails from Mr. *Moses Twitchels*.

1756 May 14 (Friday). Finished planting by the Barn. *Billy* worked for Ebenezer with the steers etc.

1756 December 15 (Wednesday). Ebenezer brought me a side of Beef being part of his own steer weighed 220 (both of them).

1757 April 26 (Tuesday). Mr. Moses ploughs again, and with Neighbor Barney Newtons Oxen added to his, and my sons Steers break up the Balk next the Road.

1757 May 10 (Tuesday). *Peter*. We plough with a feeble Team. My old Mare and my sons Steers, and Sometimes the Boys put in a pair of steers of Mr. Nurse's.

1757 November 1 (Tuesday). Our Preparing to sow has been too long delayed. With difficulty got ready to plough to Day. Having Mr. Zebulun Rice's Steers, set my boys to work with them and my own Mare to Splitting Hills; but they were unable without my own Assistance a.m. Had Enoch Rice to help p.m.

1757 November 29 (Tuesday). Deacon Tainter came, and with him Peter Blanc, and kill for me a Steer which was wont to be called the Sagg.

1758 April 17 (Monday). Adam Rice works for me -- ploughed stubble at the Island -- with my Ebenezers Steers, and Capt. Woods Oxen.

1758 April 21 (Friday). Mr. Ebenezer Rice's sons lodged in my House at t'other place, last night; and to Day He carts over more Goods. N.B. had my Sons Steers part of yesterday and the whole of to Day.

1758 May 3 (Wednesday). N.B. Alexander with his Brothers Steers, and only the help of the little Boys Samuel and John gets out 7 Turns of Muck, though some of them the Cart not full, and perhaps neither of them So full as if the Team was stronger.

1758 May 8 (Monday). Am willing my Sons and Cattle Should work for Others that they may for me. Especially This is necessary in breaking up, and therefore Billy goes with my Sons steers to work for Neighbour Zebulun Rice to Day.

1760 April 4 (Friday). I rode up to Mr. Joseph Greens to see their Daughter and prayed there.... I bought a Yearling steer of Mr. Green, for which I am to give him 4 Dollars.

1761 May 7 (Thursday). Nathan *Kenny* with a Pair of Steers and Capt. Woods Oxen helps Alex get out Muck. P.M. Mr. Samuel Forb. plows at the Island.

1761 May 13 (Wednesday). Mr. Nathan Maynard with his own Mare and Steers, and Pratts Steers with them, furrowed for me at Cook-Field.

1765 April 1 (Monday). Breck goes with my and Capt. Woods Oxen and Neighbour Newtons Cart to cart Timber for a Corn Barn. Sheep, and Steers brought home.

1765 April 19 (Friday). At Mr. Nurse's in the Morning to get him to plow for me: and he consents. Sends Nathan with steer and Horse.

1765 April 29 (Monday). *Thomas Arnold* came to work for me half his Time. We have Mr. Nurse's Horse and steers to draw stones for the Orchard Wall next the Road.

1765 September 20 (Friday). Thomas variously employed -- goes to Drurys Mill at Eve -- and so to his Fathers. My steers from the woods.

1766 May 2 (Friday). They plow the great Field. My Steers are orderly, and joined with the oxen make Sufficient Team.

1766 May 9 (Friday). Billy Sets out on his Journey to Townshend, with his Cart and Oxen, and my Steers to make out his Team. He carries various Goods -- his Desk, Curtains, Chairs, etc. *John* also goes with him to help drive his Cow and Calf, and two Yearling Heifers of mine.

1766 October 14 (Tuesday). *John* came from Townshend with the Steers and Heiffers.

1766 November 8 (Saturday). John carries two Baggs of soft Corn for my steer that [is] fattening at Mr. Jonathan Grout. Deacon carries two Baggs more.

1766 November 21 (Friday). Deacon *Tainter* also came with a Load of Wood -- and Mr. Jonathan Grout came about the Steer which he has fattening for me.

1769 May 15 (Monday). At Eve came from Brookfield, my Grandson Ebenezer and with him *Lolus* (the indian Boy) and they lodge here. I have also Two Horses and a pair of Steers, for Mr. Zebulon Rice. One of the Horses is for the Boys to ride on when they return.

1769 December 30 (Saturday). My Son *William* brought a pair of Three year old steers for me to keep this Winter.

1770 May 3 (Thursday). *Billy* takes his Steers with him home.

1770 June 14 (Thursday). Mr. Nurse drives 5 of my young Creatures, 3 Heiffers and two Steers with [blank] of his own, to *Ashby*.

1770 September 28 (Friday). Neighbour *Nurse* returned from *Ashby* last night, and drove home 3 of my young Cattle. A red, yearling steer is still missing.

1771 February 5 (Tuesday). I came away [from private meeting] against their sollicitations to eat and drink with them because of our perplexitys and disappointments relative to *Brecks* going to *Fitchbourg* for my Strayed steer: but *Breck* would have gone on Foot.

1771 February 19 (Tuesday). N.B. My grandson *Elias* went to Mr. James Goddards and brought my two year old steer home.

1772 January 13 (Monday). John Arnold paid me money for my pork which he lately carried to Marblehead. Weighed there 14 Score and 16 lb. He paid me 30£ 17 s. and 8 d. He had 2/4 per pound and took 3 d. per pound for Carriage, for his Brother. I returned 4 Dollars in part for a Steer coming 4 Years, which I have traded with Mr. Arnold for. Mr. Francis Whipple also paid 38£ 6/ in full for oxen he bought of me and took his Note which he gave me in Sept. last, for them.

1772 February 28 (Friday). Paid Mr. Arnold 8 Dollars in part for his Steer. (N.B. have paid 4 Dollars before.)

1772 April 21 (Tuesday). Sold *Billy* a two year old steer for 14£ old Tenor because he was urgent to have him to mate another. *Billy* returned.

1772 August 31 (Monday). *Elias* goes to *Leicester* to his Brother Alexander for my Steers.

1772 October 30 (Friday). Neighbours Newton and Joseph Bond killed my Brown steer of 4 Years, being good Beef.

1772 October 31 (Saturday). My Son William returns to Concord and takes with him a 2 year old Steer and a fat Heiffer which I have Sold him.

1773 March 18 (Thursday). Mr. Biglow goes to Holden. *Billy* pays me £14 old Tenor for the Steer he bought of me. He pays me also 31£ for the fat Heiffer which he had with the Steer. P.M. he leaves us to go home.

1773 July 14 (Wednesday). *John* has the disagreeable Task of a Walk to *Brookfield* to drive down a Steer.

1773 November 17 (Wednesday). Capt. *Baldwin* Sends my Cattle home, viz. three -- My Steer of 4 years past, and two heiffers. Six yearlings of his also are drove here to be kept for him the winter ensuing. *Issachar Bates* and *Isaac Baldwin* came with them and lodged here.

1774 January 17 (Monday). N.B. Breakfast at Lt. Bakers. P.M. Lt. *Baker*, Neighbour *Newton* and *Silas Hill* came; and my fat Steer being led home, they Killed him and he weighed, the quarters 480 and the Hide 71. Not well tallow'd.

1774 February 22 (Tuesday). They that went for wood yesterday, So broke the way, and made it fit to Sled in; and the Cutters cut So much more than was brought home; that therefore Lieut. *Baker* in his generousness sent his Team and Man again to Day, also to sled Wood for me; and Neighbour *Newton* in his Goodness likewise, sent his Team and Man to sled up, what was left and what another Number of Cutters cutt, viz. Mr. *Keene*, *John Fay* hired, *Stephen Maynard* hired, *Nathaniel Chamberlin* hired, and *Phinehas Brigham* (son of Widow *Hitty*). To the Teams, add my own of 3 Cattle, and p.m. Dr. *Hawes'* Steers instead of the Mare, and my son *John* drove.

Breck also procured Mr. *Joseph Bond* to come with his 5 Cattle. They all went 3 times each -- therefore brought 12 Load to day.

1774 February 24 (Thursday). John Fay works for me from Day to Day in cutting wood in the Brigham Lott -- day to Day. And *Elias* a.m. sleds with our Team. P.M. *Breck* p.m. goes to *Lancaster*; and we have added to my oxen (instead of *Brecks* mare), Dr. *Hawes's* steers, and his young man to drive. Mr. *Joseph Bond* sleds to Day likewise. They brought home, in all, to day, Six Load.

1774 March 9 (Wednesday). Lt. *Baker* paid me £100 old tenor which I had lent him last Nov. 27th and I paid him 4 Dollars for his fattening my Steer.

1775 November 14 (Tuesday). At Eve Mr. *Abraham Bond*, having been kicked by a [steer?] and his Leg broke, is carried along home in a Cart.

1776 April 11 (Thursday). I trade with Capt. *Maynard* for a 3 year old Steer to match One of Mine; *Elijah* being fond of obtaining it.

1776 September 17 (Tuesday). When I returned home Mr. *Daniel Forbes* junior came here having killed and Sold my fat Steers which he drove to Maj. *Whittemores*; he delivered me 9£ lawful and 9/ old.

1777 November 14 (Friday). Mr. *Joseph Bond* came and with *Brecks* help, killed a [Red?] Steer for me. Mr. *May* and Mr. *Bond* dine here.

1777 November 28 (Friday). *Elias* goes in search of my Heiffer and steer missing from *Coi's Hill*.

1778 January 8 (Thursday). *Elias* returned from *Brookfield* but today only from Capt. *Curtis's* at *Worcester*. He drove home my steer, and with him four of my Son *Baldwins* young Cattle: and Nine of my son *Forbes's* sheep, Eight from Mr. *Jonas Brewers*, and one from Mr. *Daniel Forbes*.

1778 October 9 (Friday). *Elias* returned with the Four Cattle which he went for, viz. a Cow for Beef, a large Steer and two younger ones. N.B. He lodged last night at Walkers (a Tavern) in *Brookfield*.

1779 February 15 (Monday). *Elias* is so much taken with a pair of Steers at Mr. *Harrington's*, that he prevails with me to go and trade with him for them. I went to his House and drank Coffee with his Mother and Wife.

1779 February 16 (Tuesday). *Elias* with Mr. *Harrington* about the Steers, and I completed a Bargain with him: His steers are coming 3. He asks 80£ for them. I give him my large Steer and 35£, and paid him the Bills in Hand. The steers are duly exchanged.

1779 March 8 (Monday). Mr. Harrington sleds away with my four Steers, 4 logs of Maple to his door.

1780 January 5 (Wednesday). Both my Sons and my Steers join with a number of the Street Neighbors with Cattle and Shovels to break the Roads. Tis difficult to compute the Height or Depth of it. I am almost ready to conclude that there has not been so much Snow upon the Ground at a Time ever since the GREAT STORM in year 1717.

1780 January 28 (Friday). The latter part of this was the most remarkable Cold Day that we have had (as every body is free to allow) and Elias goes again with Squire Baker, and drives two pair of my Steers, to breaking the Road down to Taplin's in Southborough; The evening and night were so extremely severe that I was much concerned for him till he returned; and did survive though he had been in Danger of being overcome with Cold and Fatigue.

1780 April 22 (Saturday). Mr. Eleazar Rider, who saws at the Whipple sawmill having given me Slabbs etc., Stephen Maynard in Dr. Hawes' Service, goes with my Cart and Steers, and puts in the Doctor's Steers, to the Saw-Mill, and brings a Load.

1780 April 25 (Tuesday). Hopkins goes to work -- uses my Steers and Deacon Wood's Oxen and Harrow and Ben Wood helps, in harrowing and getting out muck.

1780 April 29 (Saturday). Kenny and his Son came to get out muck, and has my Steers and Cart. Mr. Moses Nurse joins with his Horses and waggon.

1780 June 3 (Saturday). N.B. Frederic Lock who works for me today in moving and setting up a Fence at the Island to make a Lane from the Road to my Pasture, meets with a Disappointment by the unruliness of my Steers, and leaves the Work undone -- which prevents my pasturing my Cows there.

1780 November 3 (Friday). As night came on, Elias with Letters from Br. Breck from Springfield. He brings home five young Cattle from Coi's Hill. The two largest Steers have been taken out of Pasture by Alexander some time ago.

1782 September 27 (Friday). My Steers came home last night from *Templeton*: and Squire Baker wants to have them of me. He has them accordingly.